

Calendar No. 1451

77TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
{ No. 1405

ADDING CERTAIN CONTIGUOUS LANDS OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST, CALIF.

MAY 26, 1942.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4205]

The Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4205) to add to the Cleveland National Forest, Calif., certain contiguous lands of the United States which can be most effectively and economically protected and administered as parts of said national forest, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

Facts concerning this bill are carried in the report on H. R. 4205 of the Committee on the Public Lands of the House of Representatives, and that part of the report is hereinbelow set forth in full and made a part of this report.

An identical bill, H. R. 168, Seventy-sixth Congress, first session, was reported favorably by this committee and passed the House on July 6, 1939, unopposed. The report of this committee on H. R. 168, Seventy-sixth Congress, first session, is hereinbelow set forth in full and made a part of this report.

[H. Rept. No. 715, 76th Cong., 1st sess.]

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 168) to add to the Cleveland National Forest, Calif., certain contiguous lands of the United States which can be most effectively and economically protected and administered as parts of said national forest, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

2 ADD CERTAIN LANDS TO CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST, CALIF.

The favorable reports of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior are hereinbelow set forth in full and made a part of this report as follows:

MARCH 14, 1939.

HON. RENÉ L. DEROUEN,
*Chairman, Committee on the Public Lands,
House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. DEROUEN: Receipt is acknowledged of your request of January 18 for a report on H. R. 168, a bill to add to the Cleveland National Forest, Calif., certain contiguous lands of the United States which can be most effectively and economically protected and administered as parts of said national forest.

This bill is the same as H. R. 10125, introduced at the Seventy-fifth Congress and on which this Department, under date of May 17, 1938, submitted a favorable report.

Two small contiguous units of unreserved public lands would be added to the Cleveland National Forest under the provisions of this bill. The smaller area, known as the Desert View unit, contains 169.19 acres of public land adjoining the present eastern boundary of the national forest and comprising the point of a ridge at the edge of the desert. Its inclusion in the national forest would carry out the purpose of the Executive withdrawal order of August 13, 1923, under which part of this area was withdrawn from entry to facilitate addition to the national forest by appropriate legislation so that necessary roads could be constructed across it for purposes of forest protection and utilization. The Desert View unit, being situated on the point of a ridge sloping gently to the west and very abruptly to the east, affords a wide view of the Imperial Valley. The point is visited annually by many thousands of campers and picnickers and is a contiguous part of the Laguna Mountain recreational area, a national forest development. The Forest Service has constructed a road to the edge of this tract, but had not extended it to its logical terminus because that is outside of existing national forest boundaries. If the proposed legislation is enacted, simple facilities will be installed to enable the visiting public to observe and identify the many points of interest such as the Salton Sea, Borego Valley, Imperial Valley, the Arizona Desert, and the Laguna Mountain, which contains one of the few stands of pine timber left in southern California.

The larger, San Mateo, tract contains approximately 814 acres of public land and adjoins the national-forest boundary on the east and north sides. The addition of this area would insure more adequate fire prevention for the tract itself and also would facilitate the completion of a road project which is an important element in the plan for fire prevention and suppression on the adjoining national-forest lands. This tract will continue to be a hazard to the larger and inter-related national-forest areas if effective protection and management is not extended to it.

Neither one of the areas is known to contain mineral values or appreciable grazing values, nor are they within an organized Taylor grazing district. Only small portions of the described lands contain timber but for the most part are covered with a heavy growth of chamiso brush, which in southern California is very valuable for watershed protection. Both tracts are located on rugged terrain and of such soil character that the removal of the vegetative cover immediately results in accelerated erosion and rapid run-off with serious consequences.

The planning commission for the county of San Diego has recommended this legislation and the Department has received petitions from officers of the El Earth Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Oasis of San Diego, San Diego, Calif., recommending the addition of these two tracts to the national forest.

The Forest Service, of this Department, is the only agency in the locality at the present time which maintains fire-prevention facilities and a year-round representative to properly and cooperatively manage the resources of the national forest. The two small units integrate with the Cleveland National Forest and their addition would lessen rather than increase existing administrative problems.

It is the opinion of this Department that, for the reasons given the enactment of H. R. 168 would be in the public interest.

Upon reference of this matter to the Bureau of the Budget, as required by Budget Circular 344, the Acting Director thereof advised the Department of Agriculture under date of March 6, 1939, that there would be no objection on the part of that office to the submission to Congress of this proposed report.

Sincerely,

HARRY L. BROWN, *Acting Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, March 9, 1939.

HON. RENÉ L. DEROUEN,
*Chairman, Committee on the Public Lands,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. DEROUEN: I have received your request for a report on H. R. 168, to add to the Cleveland National Forest, Calif., certain contiguous lands of the United States.

Similar legislation was introduced in the Seventy-fifth Congress in H. R. 10125 on which this Department submitted a favorable report under the date of May 16, 1938.

The lands described, amounting to approximately 900 acres, adjoin the national forest and are shown by the records of this Department to be public. Lot 4, sec. 7, and lots 1 and 2, sec. 18, T. 15 S., R. 6 E., San Bernardino meridian, are withdrawn under an Executive order of August 13, 1923, for the use of the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture in connection with the contemplated road construction in the national forest.

Lot 3 of section 7 in the same township is withheld until June 30, 1941, from disposition under the public land laws other than that authorized by the act of June 29, 1936 (49 Stat. 2026), which provided that the State of California may, within 5 years from the date of its passage, select for State park purposes all or any portion of the public land not reserved for public purposes in certain described townships. No selection covering the tract is shown by the records of this Department to have been filed by the State. If it is not intended that the proposed legislation supersede that act as to lot 3 of section 7, it is suggested that the following words be inserted after the words "United States," in line 5, page 1: "and to such rights as were granted to the State of California by the act of June 29, 1936 (49 Stat. 2026)."

The lands described in T. 8 S., R. 6 W., San Bernardino meridian, are unsurveyed and included in the temporary withdrawal for classification and other purposes made by the Executive order of November 26, 1934, as amended.

General information at hand indicates that all the lands are largely rough and mountainous, substantially none being suitable for farming purposes. The vegetation consists chiefly of brush type with possibly some scattered timber growth of little merchantable worth. The land has some grazing value, but its principal utility appears to be for watershed protection. The establishment of a grazing district in this area is not contemplated.

In view of the character of this comparatively small area of public land and its position with relation to the existing national forest, this Department will interpose no objection to the proposed legislation.

The Bureau of the Budget, in response to a request from this Department, has advised that it has no objection to the presentation of this report.

Sincerely yours,

E. K. BURLEW,
Acting Secretary of the Interior.

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